

## Appendix A8:

### Local Examples of Collaborative Projects

A number of good examples of collaborative planning were found as the project scoping and local plan review phases were being conducted. A brief summary of some of these collaborative planning efforts includes the following:

#### ***Forest Service National Resource Guide to American Indian and Alaska Native Relations (US Forest Service)***

Managing ecosystems involves coordination and communication across administrative boundaries. Recognizing this, the Washington Office of the USFS appointed a task group to create a National Tribal Resource Book that would describe and improve implementation of the Forest Service's American Indian/Alaska Native Policy (FSM 1563).

This resource provides Forest Service leadership with critical information to develop or improve government-to-government relations with all Federally Recognized American Indian and Alaska Native Tribes. The guide's key principles include:

- Indian tribal governments possess inherent powers of self-government.
- No two tribal governments are exactly alike.
- There are no single or standard answers for any given issue that can be equally applied to all tribes.
- Forests and regions need to communicate and consult directly with each sovereign tribe about related laws, treaties, policies, and Forest Service activities.

This guide can be found at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/people/tribal>.

#### ***Monroe Mountain Ecosystem Restoration Pilot Project (Fishlake National Forest)***

Vegetation mix, especially the encroachment of conifers is a concern expressed by local communities. Fishlake National Forest was awarded a Stewardship Contracting Pilot Project for FY 1999 to address concerns about aspen being replaced with conifers. The goals of this pilot project to treat a section of forest to promote aspen forests included: improving wildlife habitat, restoring ecosystem patterns and functions to historic range of variability, and restoring overall health and vigor of forest stands. While the project was sponsored by the USFS, it was also well-supported by the local community. Pictures of this project's progress can be seen at: [http://www.fs.fed.us/forestmanagement/projects/stewardship/pilots/fy1999\\_report/figures.shtml](http://www.fs.fed.us/forestmanagement/projects/stewardship/pilots/fy1999_report/figures.shtml).

#### ***Parker Mountain Adaptive Resource Management Plan (Utah Division of Wildlife Services)***

The purpose of the Parker Mountain Resource Management Plan Rangeland Habitat Committee is to review recent research conducted on the Sage Grouse and discuss the future work that is planned for Parker Mountain. The Parker Mountain Resource

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Management Plan is designed as a framework for local working groups (LWGs) to develop area-specific management programs to maintain, improve and restore local sage-grouse populations and their habitat. Management areas, key local issues, conservation strategies and population information are provided as a starting point for LWGs. The Parker Mountain Grazing Association was an essential partner in the research efforts. More information on protecting Sage Grouse on Parker Mountain and across the state can be found at: <http://www.wildlife.utah.gov/uplandgame/sage-grouse/>.

### ***Sanpete County Access Management Council (Sanpete County)***

The Sanpete County Access Management Council (SCAMC) was created in 2003 at the urging of the Sanpete County Commission. The original intent of this committee was to address public access issues on roads and trails where private and public lands share boundaries. Additional objectives now include collaborating with the United States Forest Service (USFS) regarding their new forest and travel plan.

Currently, the SCAMC is working towards the development of a land council to mesh the General Plan of Sanpete County with land use components. This will assist the Bureau of Land Management and USFS in the development of their plans. As a result of the access management council and its collaborative efforts, Sanpete County believes that the following have been accomplished:

- A forum was created that promotes the exchange of open dialogue between the County and various public and private entities;
- Sanpete County now has a committee that the USFS and public can utilize as a valuable resource in planning;
- The USFS now knows that Sanpete County is genuinely interested in the planning process and recognizes the County as a working partner in the collaborative process; and
- Both the County and USFS are more familiar with the goals, concerns and desires of each other. These considerations are now taken into account when planning for the future.

Although this is still a work in progress, the collaborative efforts of all parties involved has had a positive impact on current planning efforts and will be instrumental in maintaining a forum for open discussion in the future. The Committee Chair, Gary Anderson provided this information and can be contacted at: [garya@ext.usu.edu](mailto:garya@ext.usu.edu).

### ***Sevier County Watershed Project (Dixie & Fishlake National Forests)***

The Upper Sevier River Community Watershed Project (USRCWP) is a collaborative effort to improve natural resource conditions within the 1.2 million acre Upper Sevier River Watershed. Its mission is to demonstrate, through working with partners, the application of restoration activities that lead to a healthy watershed. The USRCWP enables private landowners, local, state and federal agencies, to work across land ownerships while sharing ideas, skills and funding opportunities for restoration. This mission is accomplished through four major endeavors, including:

- Restoration and maintenance of watershed ecosystems;
- Cooperation, coordination, and partnerships;

- Research and education; and
- Demonstrating, showcasing and sharing results.

The USRCWP uses a systematic approach to watershed restoration. Projects are prioritized over time and spaced in a focused collaborative effort, resulting in the most efficient and effective use of available resources. A full report on the project can be found at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/dxnf/projects/uswmp/>

### ***Carbon County Public Lands Committee, General Plan Update (Carbon County)***

Through its Public Lands Task Group, Carbon County has established a county-level public lands committee to act as a clearinghouse for important public land issues and coordinating planning efforts with local, state and federal offices. This volunteer committee identifies and prioritizes public lands issues according to the anticipated impacts they might have on Carbon County. The committee also acts as an advisory board to county commissioners on public land use issues, making recommendations consistent with the County's General Plan and resident interests. The Public Lands Committee is organized by the County Planning Department, which can be reached by contacting Rex Sacco at: [rsacco@co.carbon.ut.us](mailto:rsacco@co.carbon.ut.us).

### ***Gunnison Sage Grouse Plan (San Juan County)***

The San Juan County Gunnison Sage Grouse Working Group (SWOG) was formed in 1996 to identify and implement community-based conservation strategies to reverse the decline of sage grouse populations in the county. Through collaborative involvement and cooperation of local landowners, citizens, community leaders, and resource agencies, the Working Group established a voluntary Conservation Plan to identify strategies to guide and coordinate management efforts across jurisdictional and land ownership boundaries to improve sage grouse habitat conditions and reverse the decline of Gunnison sage grouse populations in San Juan County. Members of the Group agree to strive for long-term commitment of its members, ensure maximum opportunity for public input, and create an atmosphere of cooperation among all stakeholders by maintaining an open dialogue. Implementation of the Plan will be done in a manner that achieves sage grouse population and habitat objectives and contributes to a stable and diverse economic base in San Juan County through the maximized efforts of public and private natural resource agencies and organizations. More information can be found on Utah DWR's website, including a brochure summarizing the project at <http://www.wildlife.utah.gov/uplandgame/sage-grouse/pdf/03brochure.pdf>.

### ***State and Private Forestry (USDA)***

The State and Private Forestry (S&PF) organization of the USDA Forest Service reaches across the boundaries of National Forests to States, Tribes, communities and non-industrial private landowners to provide resources and technical assistance to landowners and resource managers to help sustain the Nation's forests and protect communities and the environment from wildland fires.

State and Private Forestry programs bring forest management assistance and expertise to a diversity of landowners—including small woodlots, tribal, state, and federal lands—through cost-effective, non-regulatory partnerships. Cooperative programs such as the Forest Legacy Program and Forest Stewardship Program help private landowners manage forests to enhance and maintain productivity, health, biodiversity, soil and water resources, recreation, and

aesthetics and protect forest lands from being converted to non-forest uses. As partnership programs, federal funds are matched with state and local efforts to fuel innovative management ideas for state, federal, and private lands that impact the social, economic, and natural environment of everyone. A further description of this program can be found at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/>

### ***Colorado Plateau Land Use History Project***

The Colorado Plateau Land Use History Project is a multidisciplinary, multi-media effort to address common issues among diverse ecologies, resources, activities, demographics in the Colorado Plateau geographical area. Hosted by Northern Arizona University, the project features a website detailing issues, tools, research materials, and links to related endeavors. It is hoped that through examination of the historical patterns of human use in the region as well as geologic and ecological change, current management practices and policies can be adapted to better shape the region's collective future. More information can be found at: <http://www.cpluhna.nau.edu/index.htm>.

### ***National Forest County Partnership Restoration Program***

*(Grand Mesa-Uncompahgre National Forest)*

The National Forest County Partnership Restoration Program is a proposal to restore landscapes and watersheds to more desirable and sustainable conditions on three Pilot Forests, including the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests in Colorado, which are a part of Mesa and Montrose Counties in Colorado.

Through local government, tribal and federal land management restoration partnerships, the program will oversee decisions made across state and agency boundaries on over 7 million acres of land, using the best science and a collaborative process to evaluate and restore high risk areas of the three forests within a 10 year period. By improving the involvement of local leadership through the collaborative process, coordination between jurisdictions will reduce conflicts in treatment of biophysical and socioeconomic resources while reducing lengthy periods of review, approval, and implementation of needed management activities.

This community-based collaborative process will facilitate dialogue about the complex interrelationships between public land management and community sustainability. Critical linkages between natural resources and community values will be described and used to identify a range of desirable, feasible and viable management options. Outcomes of the collaborative process will be integrated with scientific assessments of ecological, social, and economic components of the landscapes to formulate proposed actions to be analyzed in full compliance with NEPA and other laws. This program is further described in *Appendix A10*.